

Beatrice Police Department



2023 Annual Report

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Beatrice Police Department Mission Statement

“The Beatrice Police Department will provide service and protection to its citizens through a professional and caring staff of sworn and non-sworn personnel.

A strong patrol presence, supported by various other divisions within the department will be the basis for our crime prevention efforts. Members of the department will work to maintain the standard of living that citizens of Beatrice have come to enjoy.”

A Word from Director Murphy



Dear Mayor Morgan, Members of the Beatrice City Council
and Citizens of Beatrice,

As we tie the ribbon on another eventful year, it is with great pleasure that I am able to present to you the 2023 Beatrice Police Department Annual Report. This report contains a large, sometimes overwhelming, amount of information put together by various members of our department and compiled into this format by Traci Baehr. I have never been a big statistics person so, to me, most of these numbers do not mean a lot. But something that does matter to me is the hard work and dedication that I see the members of our department put into this great city. Yes, some of this is indicated by the numbers but most of the work is complimented by the citizens of Beatrice. This, I believe, measures the success of our department.

Our department consists of a lot of moving parts, some of which move all at once. We would not be able to accomplish these challenges without the teamwork that I see, every single day, from our employees. They are dedicated to not only serving the citizens of Beatrice, but to helping each other out in a time of need. This is a true family trait and a contribution to a great working environment.

Year 2023 has certainly presented its challenges. Due to 5 (five) certified officers leaving, other officers had to step up and work either extra hours or hours that they normally do not work. If shifts were not filled voluntarily, officers were given a mandatory shift that they would have to work, in addition to their own shift. This led to a lot of strain thus causing a bit of turmoil throughout the department. Leadership in the department also changed towards the end of 2023. Chief John Hickman resigned, and I was put in as acting Director of the Police Department. I jumped right into the position by hiring a new Sergeant, from within the ranks, to fill our night shift opening that has been vacant for several months. Southeast Communications had a busy year as dispatch for Gage County, Crete Police Department and Richardson County. Unfortunately, they did have two employees leave in 2023. However, we were able to fill one of those positions.

We are looking forward to putting 2023 behind us and starting a fresh new year. As of the time of this report, we are now only one officer down and are already in the process of getting that position filled. I think it is going to be a great productive year for the Beatrice Police Department and the Southeast Communications Center.

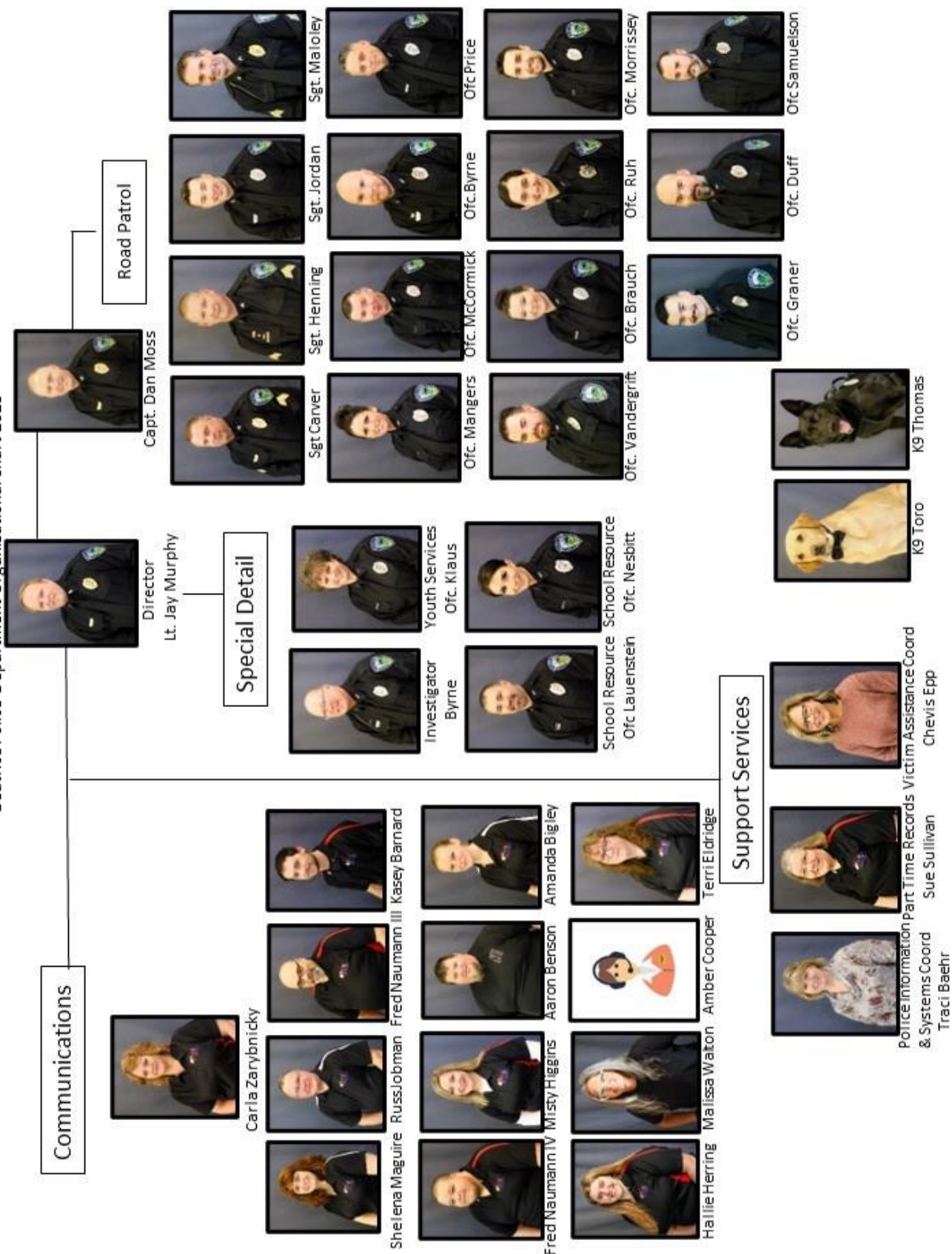
As always, if you have any questions after reading this report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Jay Murphy

Jay Murphy
Director of Police
City of Beatrice

Beatrice Police Department Organizational Chart 2023



Changes in Staff and Recognitions 2023

Promotions

- Jay Murphy - Director
- Shane Maloley – Sergeant

New Hires

- Brandon Samuelson - Officer
- Christien Vandergrift - Officer
- Nicholas Graner – Officer
- Jason Duff - Officer
- Amber Cooper - Dispatcher

Position Eliminated Due to Funding

- Marty Seymour – Assistant Victim Coordinator

Resignations

- John Hickman – Chief of Police
- Derrick Hosick – Sergeant
- Zac Smith – Sergeant
- Michael Bolan – Officer
- Isaac Haley – Officer
- Brian Najera - Officer
- Callie Smith – Dispatcher
- Kylie Schoen – Dispatcher

Retirements

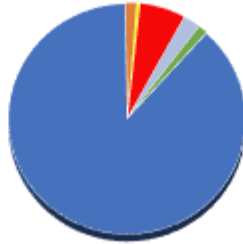
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Budget & Finances

The City of Beatrice and the Beatrice Police Department operates on a biennial budget, running from Oct 1st through Sept 30th. The Police Dept Budget Expenditures ending Sept 30, 2023 was \$4,603,373.

Police Administration - \$368,282
Southeast 911 Communications \$1,339,719

Victim Assistance Program \$142,097
Police Patrol - \$2,753,275



- Wages & Benefits \$4,054,549
- Supplies & Uniforms \$68,431
- Training \$22,496
- Other Services & Charges \$287,011
- Equipment \$110,886
- Contract Labor - Animal Control \$60,000

The Police Department applies for Grants each year to help offset costs. In 2023 we received grant money to help purchase: body cams, bullet proof vests, radar units, computers and E-citation equipment for 3 patrol cars.

Beatrice Public Schools pays the City 50% of the School Resource Officer's base pay and the Beatrice Community Hospital pays the City a fee for providing security on nights and weekends at the hospital.

Records

The Beatrice Police Department uses the New World System's Public Safety software. Our records management system is integrated with the CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) and Mobile software which is used by Communications and Patrol. This allows a Call for Service, persons, or crimes to be easily tracked and searched for reference. This system also has the capability to create reports, charts, and maps of crimes, accidents, types of incidents, etc. This tool is very useful to Patrol to be proactive to help prevent crime.

Our department implemented an E Citation system in 2020. This allows officers to enter a citation directly into the mobile computer and print a citation in the car to be given to the driver. These citations are sent automatically to our records system and State Court system where the County Attorney can download them. This has streamlined the process, and saves time for both Patrol and Records.

This software is also used by the Gage County Sheriff's Office, the City of Crete, the City of Wymore and Richardson County Sheriff's Office. Traci Baehr is the Police Information and Systems Coordinator of the software and is tasked along with Norm McConnel (I.T. for City of Beatrice) to ensure that this Records/Mobile/CAD system functions properly for all agencies and provides training for users.

Police Information &
Systems Coordinator
Traci Baehr
2005



Part Time
Records Clerk
Sue Sullivan
2021

Communications



Communications Director
Carla Zarybnicky 2015



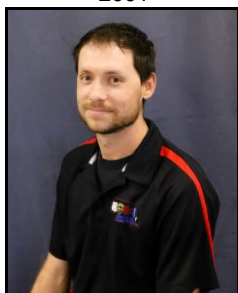
Shelena Maguire
2001



Russell Jobman
2003



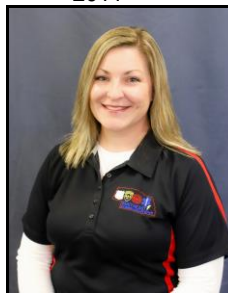
Fred Naumann III
2011



Kasey Barnard
2013



Fred Naumann IV
2015



Misty Higgins
2017



Aaron Benson
2020



Amanda Bigley
2021



Terri Eldridge
2021



Hallie Herring
2022



Malissa Walton
2022



Amber Cooper
2023

Southeast 911 Communications Center

Southeast Communications Center dispatches for 23 agencies in Gage County, the City of Crete, Crete Fire and Crete Rescue and Richardson County Sheriff's Office. These dedicated people staff the communications center 24/7, 365 days a year. The communications center fields over 110,000 phone calls, on average per year, between emergency and administrative phone calls. Also, calls for service increased in 2023.

The communications center had the honor of being the first PSAP (public safety answering point) in the State of Nebraska to be audited by the Public Service Commissions Field Coordinator for compliance of the new statewide training standards. Southeast Communications met and exceeded all state requirements. I am extremely proud to have them as my team.

Next Generation 911 in Nebraska has become a reality. The Southeast region is the last to be added to the ESI net. Southeast Communications was the second PSAP in the Southeast Region, to go live on August 31st, 2023. Ironically, there was a fiber cut in Omaha that took out 911 statewide at almost the same time we made the switch. We really thought we messed everyone up!! We were glad to find out that it wasn't us, that caused the outage! Whew!! Next Generation 911 is a secure Internet Protocol based system, utilizing high speed data connectivity capable of receiving information to include voice, text messages, picture, and videos. This system across the state will allow seamless information sharing between citizens and 911 centers.

Along with NextGen 911, comes Geographic Information Systems, (GIS). GIS provides precise location information which plays an invaluable role in public safety communications. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is a computer-based method for gathering, storing, retrieving, analyzing, and presenting geographic and spatial data utilizing interactive mapping and software. The completion of the statewide GIS database plays an integral role as Nebraska transitioned to the Next Generation 911 System.

When Should You Call 911?

- 9-1-1 should be called for emergencies, such as crimes in progress, to report a fire or for a medical emergency.
- For non-emergencies, such as parking problems, non-injury car accidents, thefts or vandalism call 402-223-4080
- Remember to remain calm, speak clearly and follow any instructions the dispatcher gives you.
- Be prepared to provide the location of the emergency. Always know your location and be ready to give directions to the dispatcher. Descriptive information such as cross streets, mile markers, landmarks, and business names are helpful.
- The dispatcher will verify your address and phone number.
- Do not hang up until the dispatcher tells you to. Even if you dialed by mistake, stay on the line and explain that you accidentally dialed.
- The dispatcher will ask you questions. Stay calm and answer the questions clearly. This questioning does not delay the response of Law Enforcement/Fire/EMS Personnel. It does provide the responders with more information as they are in-route so they can be better prepared when they arrive.
- When describing a vehicle the dispatcher may ask the color, year, make and model, body style, license plate and state, and any other distinguishing characteristics.

2023 SE911 Calls for Service

This list is a total for Southeast 911 Communications; including the Beatrice Police Department, Gage County Sheriff's Office, Wymore Police Department, Beatrice Fire & Rescue, Crete Police Department, Crete Fire & Rescue, Richardson County Sheriff's Office, Nebraska Game & Parks, Board of Public Works, Animal Control & all Gage County Rural Fire/Rescue Agencies.

CALL TYPE	2020	2021	2022	2023	CALL TYPE	2020	2021	2022	2023
911 Hang Up	263	551	961	1,710	Domestic	65	47	59	91
Abandoned Vehicle	14	16	26	45	Door Checks	9	72	330	284
Accident/Fatality	3	0	5	3	Drowning	0	1	0	0
Accident/H&R	138	157	129	168	Drug Information	94	100	114	92
Accident/Injuries	124	161	139	158	Drug Violation	64	66	86	68
Accident/No Injuries	555	631	669	673	DUS	81	97	141	132
Adult Abuse	201	205	232	371	DWI - DUI	140	145	184	126
Alarm	106	60	68	64	Embezzlement	1	1	0	0
ALS	22	20	16	19	EPC	19	23	27	18
Animal Bite	80	64	83	72	Escort	87	87	107	86
Animal Complaint	642	639	643	668	Fail to Appear	16	4	0	0
Animal Cruelty	95	99	106	123	False Reporting	0	1	5	5
Animal on Roadway	147	271	296	296	Field Interview	33	43	12	5
Arson	2	1	2	2	Fire	210	148	257	173
Assault	127	126	140	137	Fire Alarm	99	103	139	112
Assist Citizen	279	311	287	328	Fireworks Complaint	96	27	52	67
Assist Other Agency	654	748	843	785	Forgery	0	3	5	3
Attempted Suicide	0	1	0	5	Found Animal	188	212	220	176
Background Check	0	0	0	13	Found Bike	34	59	37	22
Bar Check	235	122	90	151	Found Property	184	180	188	174
Barking Dog	80	77	75	66	Fraud	110	109	131	109
BCH Security	0	18	366	365	Gage Co. Warrant	0	262	330	313
Bicycle Theft	9	27	19	9	Gambling Violation	0	0	0	1
Bomb Threat	0	0	0	1	Game Violation	10	4	3	7
BPW	75	96	85	116	Gas Drive Off	40	49	50	30
Burglar Alarm	186	215	242	211	General Information	306	426	572	523
Burglary	63	59	71	60	Harassment	174	186	157	194
Call entered in error	14	53	71	82	Harassment - Text	18	23	12	21
Child Abuse/Neglect	402	474	464	495	Health Hazard	94	100	84	93
Child Custody	12	18	42	31	Hitch Hiker	4	3	7	10
Civil	375	390	385	355	Homicide	1	1	0	0
Civil Process	508	607	829	787	ICAC	21	15	13	26
Civil Standby	122	130	125	103	Identity Theft	27	34	38	36
Complaint on Officer	7	10	17	15	Indecent Exposure	2	6	4	2
Compliance Check	50	2	3	1	Injury	2	1	3	2
Crimestoppers	2	4	7	20	Jail Incident	17	23	32	19
Death	127	134	120	127	Junked Motor Vehicle	9	3	4	0
Disorderly Conduct	7	5	9	11	Juvenile	406	503	463	491
Disturbance	475	495	534	488	K9 Public Relations	2	1	2	4

Stats are for All Agencies that SE911 Dispatches for

CALL TYPE	2020	2021	2022	2023	CALL TYPE	2020	2021	2022	2023
K9 Training	16	16	37	85	Richardson Co. Warrant	0	332	344	300
Lift Assist	253	203	203	220	Road Closed	53	17	8	3
Liquor Laws Violation	3	3	6	11	Robbery	3	1	2	1
Livestock Complaint	0	2	3	1	Runaway	85	89	67	83
Lost Animal	118	116	160	112	Scam	165	171	129	136
Lost Property	88	109	100	110	Search Warrant	2	8	9	12
Medical Alarm	62	133	130	119	Sex Off Reg Viol	37	25	16	25
Mental Health	235	187	163	153	Sex Offender Compliance Check	71	44	27	59
MIP	24	29	15	21	Sexual Assault	61	57	64	64
Missing Person	36	17	20	32	Shoplifting	50	49	50	133
Motor Vehicle Theft	33	43	39	39	Solicitor	6	0	4	2
Motorist Assist	371	428	615	626	Special Detail	9	4	21	17
Mutual Aid	8	23	35	57	Suicide	1	3	1	1
Noise	269	209	263	269	Suspicious	797	830	898	968
Nuisance	121	122	90	16	SWAT	0	1	1	0
Open Container	1	1	1	0	Test Call	15	12	45	77
Open Door	73	82	64	72	Theft	329	323	391	301
Out of Unit	752	940	1,001	867	Threats	205	154	202	222
Ordinance Violation	145	149	162	147	Title Inspection	19	124	372	380
Overdose	0	0	0	7	Traffic Hazard	272	362	325	368
Parking /2 HR	13	14	11	20	Traffic Stops	4,920	6,135	9,581	10,211
Parking/24 HR	210	184	94	206	Transfer	1,060	1,151	1,010	980
Parking/Other	583	562	512	575	Transport	177	130	212	200
Pivot	6	7	10	8	Trash	55	50	60	57
Poss. of Stolen Property	1	0	0	0	Trespassing	89	86	117	123
Probation Violation	8	1	0	2	Truancy	14	14	8	9
Procuring	0	2	0	1	Unknown	18	55	3	2
Property Damage	65	68	48	84	Vacation Watch	33	41	44	38
Protection Order Viol.	67	74	82	63	Vandalism	236	228	228	202
Prowler	3	6	3	3	Vehicle Complaint	864	931	1,021	1,037
Public Service	172	216	338	408	Warrant	267	276	217	198
Pursuit	16	10	18	20	Watch	52	59	52	50
Remove Party	152	159	145	194	Weapons Law Violation	11	7	20	12
Repo	31	24	47	52	Weather	19	22	23	19
Rescue	1,737	1,781	1,863	1,680	Welfare Check	746	823	930	847

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Calls Per Year	25,263	28,646	34,847	36,066
**Emergency Duplicated or Cancelled Calls	4,851	4,633	3,870	3,940
Total including Cancelled Calls	30,114	33,279	38,717	40,006

Calls for Service by Agency 2023

A total is not given because several agencies can respond to the case CFS; for example, there is always a fire unit, a rescue unit, an extrication unit and a law enforcement officer sent to an injury accident, therefore this would generate four different calls for service for one actual call.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Beatrice Police Department	10,801	10,110	10,108	11,500	11,765
Board of Public Works	77	64	96	87	116
Gage County Sheriff's Office	6,743	5,809	5,422	6,806	6,491
Wymore Police Department	1,056	1,112	1,077	669	340
Beatrice Fire & Rescue & Rural Fire	2,950	3,069	3,227	3,295	3,036
Adams Fire	28	22	26	48	82
Adams Rescue	70	66	88	120	144
Barneston Fire	6	16	7	26	61
Blue Springs Fire	24	24	35	51	71
Clatonia Fire	13	28	14	31	80
Clatonia Rescue	86	83	80	92	117
Cortland Fire	32	46	38	55	99
Cortland QRT's	91	106	99	104	122
Crete Police Department	5,929	5,695	6,134	5,629	6,286
Crete Fire and Rescue	913	827	900	942	904
Dewitt Fire/Rescue	2	7	1	3	3
Diller Fire/Rescue	2	0	1	2	0
Filley Fire	17	16	20	36	66
Firth Fire & QRT	8	8	15	14	17
Hallam Fire & Rescue	5	10	12	17	16
Odell Fire	9	19	21	46	73
Odell QRT's	40	26	19	32	24
Pickrell Fire/QRT's	26	20	26	40	107
Richardson County Sheriff's Office			3,141	7,208	8,356
Wymore Fire & Rescue	254	283	282	317	351

*Began dispatching Richardson Co. Sheriff's Office in August 2021



Captain Dan Moss
2009



Sgt Wes Henning
1997



Sgt Brian Carver
2000



Sgt Ethan Jordan
2018



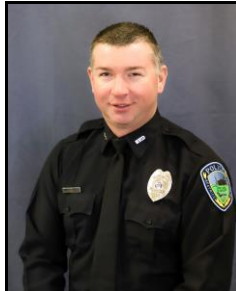
Sgt Shane Maloley
2009



Ofc Zac Lauenstein
2002



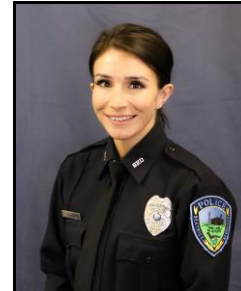
Ofc Kristine Mangers
2006



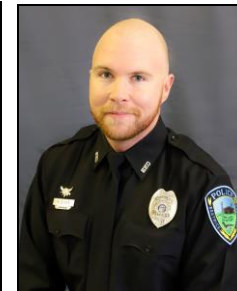
Ofc Joseph McCormick
2007



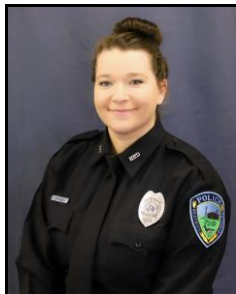
Ofc Timothy Price
2014



Ofc Natasha Nesbitt
2015



Ofc Kelly Byrne
2018



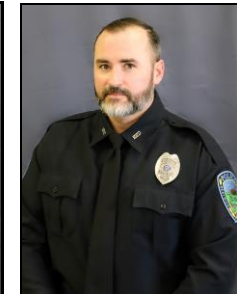
Ofc Courtney Brauch
2021



Ofc Benjamin Morrissey
2021



Ofc Brittney Ruh
2022



Ofc Brandon Samuelson
2023



Ofc Jason Duff
2023



Ofc Christien Vandergrift
2023



Ofc Nicholas Graner
2023

Patriot

Patrol

2023 saw a year in flux. It brought many challenges, but along with challenges come new opportunities. Five Officers, to include two Sergeants, moved on to new careers. On top of that, we also had one Officer gone for 11 months on a military deployment and another Officer on light duty for several months. This created a definite shortage in personnel. However, it also meant the opportunity to promote a new sergeant and the ability to train the three new Officers who were hired.

With the staff shortages and new Officers in training Vehicle stops were down in 2023 from the previous year. In spite of this, Officers responded to 11,765 calls for service, up from 11,500 in 2022.

Mental health issues continue to be a daily issue facing families, the community and our department. Officers responded to 837 welfare checks and mental health calls, did 125 mental health assessments and placed 8 people on Emergency Protective Custody. Many of the decisions Officers make, with respect to mental health calls, are aided by outside resources. TASC (Targeted Adult Service Coordination), the Mental Health Alliance of NE, Blue Valley Mental Health, Beatrice Community Hospital and Bryan LGH West Hospital are our primary sources of expertise in these matters and their help is always appreciated.

Outside of the great things Officers are doing on a daily basis, a few were individually recognized for their outstanding efforts. Sergeant Henning was given a commendation for his help providing CPR to a citizen at Mead Lumber. Sergeants Maloley and Jordan, along with Officers Lauenstein, Morrissey and Price received Commendations for their work in peacefully resolving a welfare check that turned into a citizen discharging their handgun and an SRT call.

Captain Dan Moss



Beatrice Police Department Vehicle Information 2023

#	Model	Year	Mileage	Used for	Assigned to	Fuel
1	Explorer	2021	32,002	Patrol		Gas
2	Explorer	2016	75,555	K9/SRO	Lauenstein	Gas
3	Tahoe	2020	89,630	Sergeant		Gas
4	Explorer	2021	63,662	Patrol		Gas
5	Taurus	2018	91,485	SRO	Nesbitt	Gas
6	Explorer	2017	100,732	Patrol		Gas
7	Explorer	2022	22,605	Patrol		Gas
8	Explorer	2022	18,568	Patrol		Gas
9	Tahoe	2016	110,150	K9	Price	Gas
10	Blue Bird	1995	6,198	Command Center		Diesel
11	Explorer	2013	112,294	Captain	Moss	Gas
12	Explorer	2021	8,863	Investigations	E. Byrne	Gas
13	Tahoe	2011	137,830	Patrol/Black		Gas
15	Dodge Ram	2021	13,439	Investigations	Murphy	Gas
20	Oshkosh M-ATV	2010	1,450	SWAT		Diesel
25	Lacrosse	2006	93,XXX	Investigations	Klaus	Gas
27	Cruze	2018	5,424	Victim Assistance	Epp	Gas
29	Explorer	2023	4,774	Patrol		Gas

The Beatrice Police Department added car 29 to its fleet in 2023. Car 29 is scheduled to have all of its equipment and decals installed in the near future. Car 3 was out of warranty and needed a new motor. Precision Auto Tune installed a remanufactured motor with a warranty. Car 3 is the department's Sergeant vehicle and is utilized every shift. The department has ordered a new 2024 Tahoe that should arrive around April. This new Tahoe will be a second Sergeant vehicle to keep some strain off of car 3. New decals have been ordered for all patrol units that currently have the white doors. Through 2024 the new decals will be replacing the old ones. This is due to cracking on the white door covers and to make the entire fleet look the same.



Training Summary 2023

In 2023 our department held two in-house training each month. Officers who have completed any specialized training teach fellow officers what they have learned during this in-house training, saving the department money.

Training continues to be critical in law enforcement. The Nebraska Legislature has enacted training guidelines for law enforcement officers to include mandated annual training on specific topics to include: Firearms, Officer Wellness, Anti-Bias, and Implicit Bias to name a few.

Officers are required to complete a total of 32 hours of continuing education to remain certified with the state.

Some of the more notable training events of 2023 attended by Police Department personnel are listed below.

Autism Training for Law Enforcement
FBI-LEEDA Supervisor Leadership
Field Training Officer School
Media & Public Relations
Police Service Dog Certification (Narcotics)
Defensive Tactics
CPR Recertification

Sgt. Brian Carver

Calls Responded to 2023

Following are types of calls that the Beatrice Police Department responded to during 2023.

CFS/Incident Type	2021	2022	2023
911 Hang Up	234	379	814
Accidents	403	368	403
Animal Complaints all types	738	775	707
Arson	0	1	1
Burglary	27	35	23
Child Abuse/Neglect/Custody	268	276	292
Civil Types	311	301	301
Complaint Against Officer	7	8	10
Death	81	75	74
Disturbance or Assaults	506	527	588
Drug Complaint or Info	81	105	78
DWI - DUI	69	84	64
Fraud or Scam	143	157	144
Harassment or Threats	285	264	305
ICAC	9	5	18
Juvenile	290	286	324
Liquor Law Violations	25	13	26
Missing Person	11	9	19
Motor Vehicle Theft	26	27	18
Parking Complaints	240	266	285
Pursuit	5	10	7
Rescue	103	99	121
Robbery	0	2	1
Runaway	65	33	46
Sexual Assault	30	34	41
Suicide	2	1	1
Suspicious	454	463	516
Theft or Shoplifting	208	195	181
Traffic Stops or DUS	1,788	2,452	1,866
Vandalism/Property Damage	121	125	135
Vehicle Complaints	418	348	417
Welfare or Mental Health	733	760	837
All Other Types of Calls	2,428	3,019	3,102
	10,109	11,502	11,765

Mental Health Assessments made by Officers

A Call for Service may require the officer to make mental health assessments at that time.

	2021	2022	2023
Mental Health Assessments made by an Officer	130	120	125

Ticket Statistics for 2023

Parking/Animal/City Ordinance Charges

Description	Warnings or ER's	Citations
Parking Violation	21	98
Dog and Cats must be licensed	2	2
Dog at Large		14
Noisy Animals, Fowl		1
Nuisance or Barking Dogs		2
Rabies Tag	1	
Burn without Permit		1
Discharge Firearm in City Limits		1
Disturbing the Peace		17
Juvenile Contact Card	9	
Maintain Disorderly House		1
Shoplifting		22
Urinating in Public		1
Use of Fireworks		2
Totals	33	162

Traffic Citation Charges

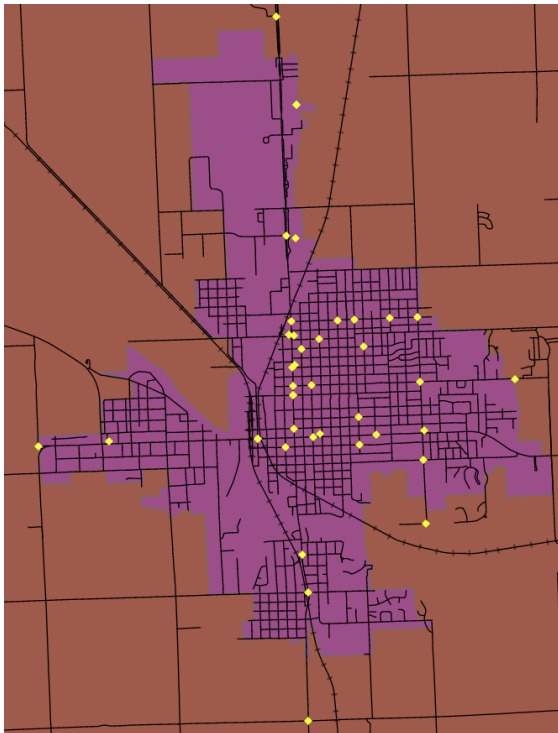
Description	Written Warning or ER's	Citations
Driving Under Suspension or Revocation		63
Exhibition of Acceleration	2	5
Failure to yield ROW to vehicle or Sign	6	18
Fictitious Plates		9
Leaving Scene of Accident		15
Lights required on Vehicle or Violation	282	9
Motor Vehicle Restraint – Adult & Child	3	2
Negligent Driving	2	17
No License Plates or manner of display	22	
One Way Violation	6	1
Operators must have valid license	5	95
Other Traffic Violations	55	47
Proof of Insurance or Ownership	3	50
Reckless Driving		11
Registration Required	25	102
School Bus Arm Violation	4	1
Speeding	171	38
Stop Sign or Traffic Signal Violation	70	53
Unlawful Operation of ATV		1
Totals	656	537

*Traffic Contacts resulting in only a Verbal Warning = 125

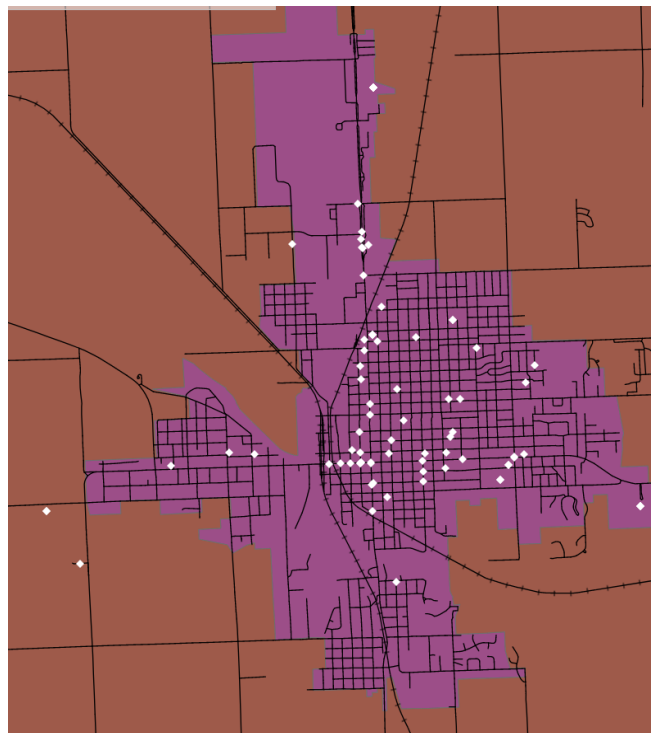
Accident Tallies for 2023

Types of Accidents

Officer Responded but no formal report taken	70
Property Damage	206
Hit and Run	83
Injury	44
Fatality	0
Total	403



Injury Accidents



Hit and Run Accidents

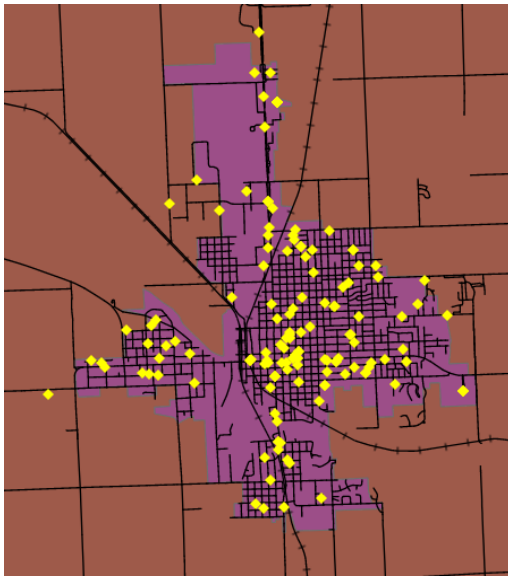
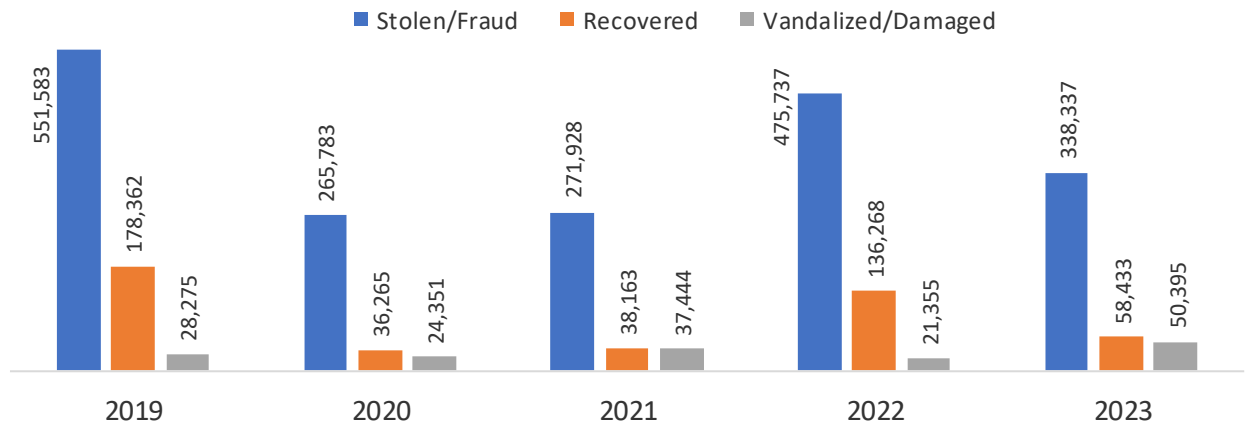
Arrest Charges

(Traffic Offenses not included)

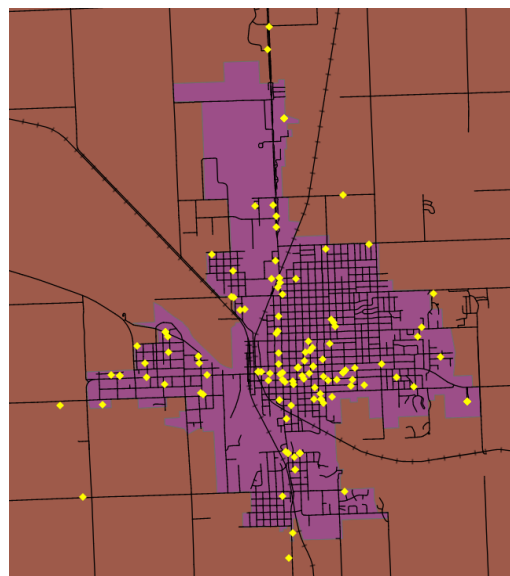
Type of Charges	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Assault 1 st /2 nd /3 rd	23	32	36	30	37
Assault on an Officer	1	6	3	6	1
Strangulation	4	4	7	6	4
Domestic Assault (Aggravated or Simple)	24	35	40	35	35
Protection Order Violations	8	28	11	13	15
Sexual Assaults 1st/ 2nd/ 3rd & child	2	4	0	1	6
Terroristic Threats/ Threats	18	5	11	9	10
Murder in the 2 nd Degree	0	1	0	0	0
Drug Violations	257	123	105	137	85
Burglary	9	3	4	6	5
Theft	27	25	16	19	17
Robbery	0	2	0	1	0
Motor Vehicle Theft/Unauth Use	2	3	1	1	2
Criminal Mischief	34	33	20	16	21
Child Abuse/Neglect	40	34	14	19	28
Weapons Violations	30	14	15	31	12
Disorderly Conduct	10	5	8	9	9
Minor In Possession	42	56	50	51	37
Procuring	7	7	3	3	0
DWI	69	91	59	73	48
Other Alcohol offenses	33	42	14	26	14
Forgery 1st Degree	0	0	0	1	0
Resisting Arrest	7	10	5	12	6
Flight to Avoid Arrest	0	7	1	4	3
Other Offenses	261	153	241	144	185
Total Arrests or Citation Charges	907	723	664	653	580

Out of these 580 Arrest charges, 249 individuals were taken into custody at the Gage County Jail. The others were cited and released at the scene.

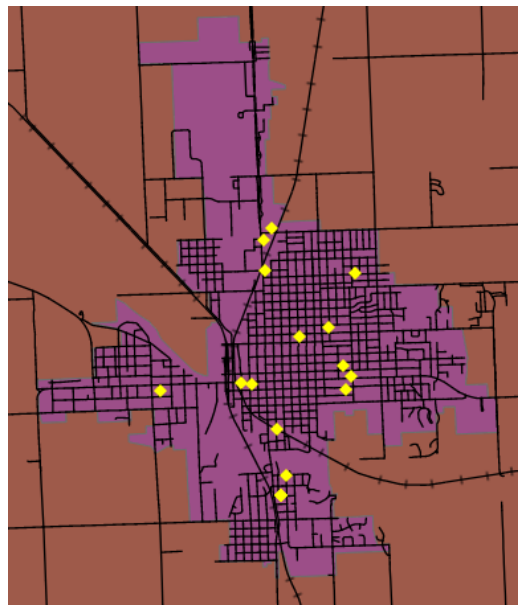
Property Crime Stats



Thefts



Vandalisms



Motor Vehicle Thefts

Criminal Investigations Unit 2023



Lt. Jay Murphy
1990



Investigator Erin Byrne
Erin Byrne
1996



Juvenile Services Ofc.
Jennifer Klaus
1994

The Criminal Investigations Unit is responsible for the investigation of cases involving a special subject matter and cases that are more complicated and often of a more time-consuming nature. The Criminal Investigations Unit is assigned a case when the nature of the crime involves serious criminal activity, such as suspected homicides, suicides, felony thefts, forgeries, felonious assaults, fraud, narcotics, or when the criminal activity appears to be part of a pattern.

The Criminal Investigations Unit is commanded by Jay Murphy, Investigative Lieutenant. The investigations unit is staffed with three investigators. The investigators are Juvenile Services Officer Jennifer Klaus, General Investigator Erin Byrne and Illegal Drugs/Major Crime Investigator Shane Maloley. We have since moved to two investigators, with Officer Maloley moving to road patrol.

During 2023, the Investigations Unit was directly assigned 581 calls for service. In addition, the Investigations Unit assisted road patrol on 455 various cases and numerous outside agencies with investigations of crimes in their jurisdictions which had ties to Beatrice. The Investigations Unit continues to work with other agencies in regard to Internet Crimes against Children (ICAC). These cases involve crimes such as possession of child pornography, online enticement of a child, and any other cyber-crime involving a child. The Investigations Unit sometimes is requested to install covert surveillance cameras in Beatrice businesses and home residences in order to solve theft or other crime related issues.

The investigations unit also assisted in the searches of cell phones and computers for various Beatrice Police Department cases as well as outside surrounding agency cases. These searches are done with a software/hardware program called Cellebrite. These update costs are shared between Beatrice, Gage County Attorney's Office and Wymore Police Department. Total number of cell phone searches in 2023 totaled 28. These searches can take up to two hours per search. Cell phone searches are completed to obtain information on various types of cases in which a cell phone may have been somehow involved.

Aside from criminal investigations, the Investigations Unit conducts background investigations for new department personnel, backgrounds for handgun permit applications, vendor background investigations, and background investigations for liquor license applications within the City of Beatrice.

The Investigations Unit also serves as liaison officers to Crime Stoppers of Gage County. This assignment requires the investigators to attend meetings of the Crime Stoppers Board and to assist with recommendations of rewards to callers who provide information leading to arrests.

Felony Crimes Reported in Beatrice

	Offenses Reported	Arrests Made
Fraud/Counterfeit/Forgery/False Pretense	10	1
Felony Drug Offenses	37	36
Child Pornography	4	3
Forcible Rape/Sexual Assault	11	2
Aggravated Assault/Terroristic Threats	7	6
Burglary	13	5
Weapons Law Violations	12	10
Family Offenses Nonviolent	14	6
Vandalism/Criminal Mischief	9	4
Other Felony Offenses	69	25
	186	98

• Crime Scene Team

The Beatrice Police Department Crime Scene Team, led by Lt Jay Murphy consists of sworn officers and civilians of the Beatrice Police Department. The team is activated to investigate large or complicated crime scenes. The duties of the team include; collecting and preserving evidence, such as fingerprints, shoeprints, tool impressions, DNA, photographs, diagrams, video recording and all physical evidence at the scene. Members of the team have specialized training in all areas of crime scene investigations. The team has training at least once a year to stay up on the knowledge and skills needed for this unit. The crime scene team was not activated in 2023.

• Illegal Drug/Major Case Investigator

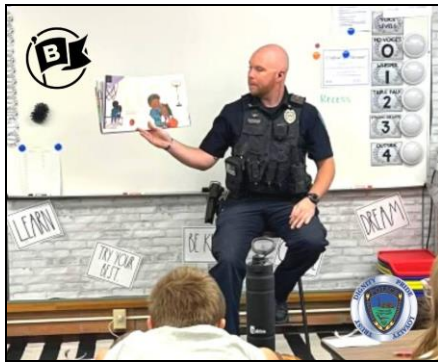
In 2023 our Narcotics Officer (NO) responded to approximately 101 calls for Service. Due to staffing, the major drug investigations were halted in early May. These calls ranged from follow-up on cases for other officers, warrants, or normal day-to-day road patrol. A few highlights for the NO included helping with an arson that occurred in the city and collaborating with the Nebraska State Fire Marshal to make a felony arrest. The NO was responsible for speaking to the suspect and getting a confession to arson and a burglary in that case. The NO also investigated an active narcotic distribution house where a sex offender was living. The Nebraska Probation Office assisted in making the arrest of a registered sex offender for a registration violation and a separate arrest for Possession of a Controlled Substance. And lastly, the NO conducted a child abuse investigation in which a search warrant was granted for a residence. Two people were later arrested for Child Abuse and Possession of a Controlled Substance.

• Juvenile Services

In 2023 Beatrice Police Department received 273 child abuse/neglect, 19 Child Custody and 467 Welfare Checks reports. Many Welfare Checks involve juveniles. These reports are received from the Department of Health and Human Services Child Abuse Hotline, school personnel, and other concerned parties that contact the police directly or situational responses.

Of the 273 Child Abuse/Neglect reports, 28 resulted in arrest or citations. Child abuse cases are difficult and time consuming. In the majority of cases, the situation or actions do not rise to criminal levels but do require intervention, or support services to protect the child and meet the identified needs. There were also 16 juveniles that were victims involved in sexual assault cases.

Juvenile victims of sexual assault, serious physical abuse, witnesses to a violent crime, or other situations are required by state statute to be taken to the Child Advocacy Center in Lincoln as part of the investigation and require officer presence. Each of these interviews can take up to four hours or longer, depending on how talkative the child can be. In 2023, 57 juveniles were interviewed at the Child Advocacy Center for Beatrice Police Department. The Juvenile Services Officer is also the liaison for the monthly multi-disciplinary investigative and treatment team meetings as required by State Statute.



social-services-a-i-cops

Special Response Team (SRT)

In 2023 this unit had two callouts. One callout was to a “shots fired” out of a camper trailer. SRT surrounded the house and due to successful negotiations, the suspect surrendered and was taken into custody without incident. SRT Officers were also called out for a suicidal, armed, intoxicated male. Again, successful negotiations occurred and the male was taken into custody without incident.

K9 Unit 2023

The Beatrice Police Department’s two K9 Units assist officers with Beatrice Police, Gage County Sheriff’s Office, Nebraska State Patrol, and surrounding county law enforcement agencies. The K9 Unit is supervised by Officer Zac Lauenstein, who facilitates K9 operations, ensures K9 training standards are met, and ensures these valuable assets are effective and efficient.

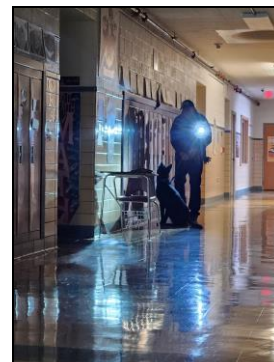
K9 Toro has been working with Officer Lauenstein since 2021. Officer Lauenstein and K9 Toro are a Certified Narcotics Detection Team in the State of Nebraska. Toro, a yellow British Labrador, not only serves as a narcotics detection dog, but also serves as a community-based service dog, utilized for educational functions, public events and events with local youth. Officer Lauenstein and K9 Toro work primarily at Beatrice High School, but also provide assistance to Beatrice Road Patrol Officers. Toro had 11 deployments in 2023 and 18 training sessions.

K9 Thomas was reassigned to Officer Tim Price in 2023 where they developed a relationship before attending a K9 Camp in the fall. They are now a Certified Narcotics Detection Team in the State of Nebraska. K9 Thomas, a black Shepard, is utilized for narcotics detection, and he no longer does patrol work like he did under his previous handler. K9 Thomas had 9 deployments and 8 training sessions in the short time he has been with Officer Price.

In 2023 we started a K9-Community Partnership, which was memorialized by a 12 month calendar. One month for each of the following partners: Oakview Vet Clinic, Beatrice Public Schools, Zoellner Ford, Twin Rivers, Premier Chevrolet, Special Olympics, Exmark Manufacturing/TORO, TASC (a division of Region V), Hope Crisis, Ashley Home Store, Paw Prints, and Auber Ink.

If you have any questions regarding the Beatrice Police K9 Unit, please feel free to contact Officer Lauenstein at 402-223-4080.

If you would like to make a donation to the Beatrice Police Department K9 Unit, send donations to:
Beatrice Police Department -Attn: K9 Fund
201 N 5th St Beatrice, NE 68310



School Resource Officer Program (SRO)

The goal of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program is to bridge the gap between students, schools and police by becoming a liaison when problems arise. SROs are working to build relationships with the students they serve in a variety of ways. Officer Lauenstein continues in the SRO role for his 13th year, out of his 21 years with Beatrice PD, Officer Nesbitt is enjoying her 3rd year as an SRO sharing the knowledge of her 9 years of policing with Beatrice.

Both SROs attended the annual conference for the National Association of School Resource Officers, which is the Gold Standard in school-based policing. NASRO uses the triad approach with the responsibilities of being a Teacher, Informal Counselor, and Law Enforcement Officer. Safety is at the forefront of SRO responsibilities, and they work closely with Beatrice Public School administration to be on the leading edge of current best practices. This includes the Threat Assessment Teams, anonymous reporting, CPTED (crime prevention through environmental design), training staff and students in Standard Response Protocol, as well as making it available to the public.

SROs are a vital component of a Threat Assessment Team, where any and all threats or concerns of violence targeted towards a person, place or group is investigated and safety plans are put in place to ensure a safe learning and working environment for all.

Utilizing our training SRO's make arrests for criminal violations only when necessary and is in the best interest of the case or juvenile. The primary goal of any deviant behavior is prevention, and we are striving to utilize a variety of ways, including mentoring to prevent deviant juvenile behavior from becoming criminal acts as adults. If prevention efforts are unsuccessful then SROs are certified law enforcement officers who have a variety of intervention options.

SROs work with Beatrice Public Schools to fit the needs and support students and their families. Examples are:

- Utilizing K9 Toro as a social support for students as long as it does not interfere with his duties as a Police Service Dog. Toro has also helped grow even more relationships since dogs are often a great unifying factor.
- The SRO at the high school added the BHS Mini Market and then expanded to BMS after receiving a grant. The Mini Market is designed to increase access to food for those families facing food insecurities. It has been a successful program that has been supported well by the school and community and community organizations.
- Having a single purpose narcotics detection K9 (Toro) in the high school is designed to deter students from engaging in drug crimes, specifically at the school. If the prevention efforts fail, SRO Lauenstein and Toro are a Nebraska certified Drug Detector Team who can be utilized both inside and outside of the school. The prevention seems to be working, which is supported by the times that school administrators have requested a sweep of the parking lot and locker rooms for drug odor and it has resulted in no drugs found.

Officer Lauenstein worked 84 cases during the school year (a 25% increase over last year's record year), including drug cases, weapons violations, sexual assaults, mental health, child abuses and assaults. The reason for the increase of cases, as well as the later reported arrests/tickets is vaping violations. Officer Nesbitt worked 53 similar cases during the same time, also an increase of almost 13% from last year. However official case reports account for a very small percentage of what a SRO does, but having a sworn officer in the schools is beneficial to both the police department and the school when situations arise. The overwhelming majority of contacts with SRO do not even result in a case report being generated, BPS has an internal logging system to track documented contacts. While it is impossible to log every contact, efforts are made to accurately document important interactions between students and SROs.

During 2023 there were a total of 255 law enforcement contacts logged in the school data system. Of those: 195 were high school students, 55 middle school students, 4 Paddock Lane students, and 1 Lincoln Elementary student. Of the 195 high school contacts log, 13 students accounted for 15 arrests, very consistent with last year, and some of those being SKILLS students. Four of those were special education students. Only 3 citations were logged from the 55 contacts at the middle school. It is nearly impossible for an SRO to log all contacts with students and it should be noted that several of the 255 contacts are for positive reasons, but contacts are still vastly underreported.

BPD records show that Officer Nesbitt issued 17 citations and Officer Lauenstein issued 37 citations. Continued efforts will be done to ensure accurate documentation in the school records system. Not all of those citations were BHS students, or even all school related, but just during the school year. BPS recently installed air quality and sound monitoring devices in areas around some buildings that also can detect the use of vaping devices and Marijuana/THC. While it is a deterrent for most, it is also helpful in the detection for those who continue to use these items in school. This is the primary reason for the increase in cases and arrests.

Zac Lauenstein - SRO - Beatrice High School
Natasha Nesbitt - SRO - Beatrice Middle School



Drone Program

Currently, the department has one (1) DJI Drone at their disposal with one certified pilot. The department continues to receive donations for the program to acquire additional drones for different operations. Drones can be used for many different missions including search and rescue, surveillance, and room/building clearing along with others.

The current drone was utilized 3 times during the year.



Gage County Victim Assistance Program

- The Gage County Victim Assistance Program has been in existence since 1995. It is supported by Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) federal grant funds, in-kind and cash match by the City of Beatrice and Gage County.
- Mission: The Gage County Victim Assistance Program is a free public service offering information, practical assistance and crisis intervention to victims of crime in Gage County. Victims endure physical suffering, as well as, emotional distress. Crime imposes financial hardship on the victim, such as loss of wages, medical bills, and property damages. Anger, guilt, and confusion occur as a result of the crime and are naturally followed with feelings of anxiety, fear and frustration towards the criminal justice system. The Gage County Victim Assistance Program ensures the victims' rights are upheld in the criminal justice system. Our purpose is to assist the victim with information concerning the case, possible compensation and provide support. We personally encourage and support the victim and their family throughout the process, while treating the victim with dignity and empowering them, as well as, showing compassion during this traumatic time. The criminal justice system is meant to bring justice and relief to victims and their families. The process, however, is long and complex. Time is needed for the correct information to be acquired and for information to be filtered through the different levels of the justice system. Our office will help guide victims through the legal steps.
- The Victim Assistance Coordinator and Victim Assistant Advocate as part of their daily duties, the Victim Assistance Coordinator and Victim Assistant Advocate make initial contact with victims, provide case update, assist with State Crime Victims' Compensation paperwork, assist with the Victim Impact Statement (VIS), communicate for prosecutors, attend pre-trial meetings, provide court/law enforcement accompaniment, make referrals to community partners and services, assistance with protection orders, follow up contact and address all questions/concerns about the criminal justice process. The Victim Assistance Coordinator is also responsible for coordination with partnering agencies, grant writing and quarterly reporting of financial and statistical reports required for VOCA funding.
- The Beatrice Police Department hired a new Victim Assistance Coordinator, Chevis Epp, in April 2021, after the last coordinator retired after 20 years of serving Gage County crime victims. The new coordinator has over 11 years of victim advocacy experience, mainly working with survivors of domestic violence, rape/sexual assault, human sex/labor trafficking, as well as, child welfare, juvenile justice, diversity/equity work, child abuse prevention and is a certificated Mental Health First Aid trainer. The coordinator has a Bachelor's in Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology and an emphasis in Counseling.
- The Assistant Victim Advocate, Marty Seymour, had been with the Gage County Victim Assistance Program since December 1, 2016. As of November 30th, 2023, the Assistant Victim Advocate position was eliminated due to a state wide reduction in the Victims of Crime Act Grant (VOCA) that has funded the program since it's conception in 1995. There was a 40% reduction in VOCA funding from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) available for this grant cycle. The total funding available for SFY 2024 VOCA is approximately \$6.8 million, while the total requested by applicants across the state was approximately \$13.05 million. This required funding cuts of \$6.25 million, which was almost 50% of the total amount requested.

- The Gage County Victim Assistance Program is available 24/7 to assist crime victims and law enforcement if called upon by the shift supervisor. The victim assistance program works closely with the Beatrice Police Department, Gage County Sheriff's Department, Wymore Police Department & NE State Patrol, as well as, the Gage County Attorney's Office.
- This program provides services to all victims of crime in Gage County. (*not all inclusive):
 - Crisis Intervention
 - Personal Advocacy
 - Criminal Justice Advocacy
 - Protection Order Assistance
 - Property Release
 - Restitution
 - 911 Cellular Phones
 - Safety Planning
 - Transportation
 - Parole Information
 - Victim Impact Statement
 - Court Proceedings
 - General Information/Assistance
 - NE Crime Victim's Reparations Program
 - NE Victims of Crime Alert Portal Registration
- The Victim Assistance Coordinator services on the:
 - **Gage County Child Abuse and Neglect Treatment Team**
The mission of the Gage County Child Abuse and Neglect Treatment Team is to ensure a comprehensive multi-disciplinary approach to assist children who are abused and/or neglected, who are suspected of or at risk of abuse and/or neglect, and who are exhibiting multi-problem delinquent behavior to include cases where the Juvenile Court is not involved, where their needs are not being met by the current systems.
 - **Gage County Crime Stoppers**
Gage County Crime Stoppers is a non-profit organization operated by an all-volunteer citizen board. The goal of Crime Stoppers is to combine the efforts of the police, citizens, and media in our community's fight against crime. Crime Stoppers encourages people with information about a crime to make ANONYMOUS telephone calls to law enforcement agencies, in exchange for a reward up to \$1,000.
 - **Southeastern Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force**
The Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force (NHTTF) was created in 2015 to coordinate the state's response to human trafficking occurring in Nebraska. It involves not only law enforcement and prosecutors, but also service providers, advocates, and community partners, all focused on the NHTTF mission and goals.
 - **Nebraska Partnership Against the Trafficking of Humans (NE PATH)**
Nebraska PATH facilitates connection between those involved in the anti-trafficking movement to build a competent, trauma-responsive, and survivor-centered response to human trafficking in Nebraska.
 - **Community Justice Committee of Gage County MAPS**
Multiple Agencies Partnering for Success (MAPS) Coalition is a collaboration of over 50 individuals, agencies, and organizations that work to improve the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities in Gage County.

Victim
Assistance
Coordinator
Chevis Epp
2021



Assistant
Victim Coordinator
Marty Seymour
2016 through 2023

Victim Assistance Program Statistics 2023

*Not an all-inclusive list of services provided

TYPE OF SERVICE	# OF TIMES PROVIDED	
	2023	2022
Emotional Support & Safety Services	1,864	1,956
Personal Advocacy & Accompaniment	372	362
Information about the Criminal Justice Process & Referral	3,947	4,190
Emergency Financial Assistance	0	10
Law Enforcement Interview/Accompaniment	300	305
Criminal & Civil Justice System Advocacy	4,821	4,950
Compensation Assistance	25	20
Transportation	10	9
Protection Order Assistance	451	445
Total # of Services Provided	11,790	11,458
Total # of Victims Served	1,037	782

Types of Victimizations & Number of Crime Victims Who Received Services

*An individual MAY be counted in more than one victimization type

Types of Victimization	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Adult Physical Assault	99	94	94	193	150	154	202
Adult Sexual Assault	34	34	44	53	36	9	37
Adults Sexual Abused as Children	2	2	1	24	7	5	0
Arson	4	4	3	1	64	16	0
Bullying (verbal, cyber or physical)	12	10	27	24	0	1	1
Burglary	92	101	68	39	124	97	95
Child Physical Abuse/Neglect	182	167	144	420	113	62	97
Child Pornography	0	0	0	0	4	2	5
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	68	101	161	209	237	108	77
Domestic and/or Family Violence	838	793	749	808	1,080	813	875
DUI/DWI Incidents	21	26	10	14	9	33	25
Elder Abuse/Neglect	4	4	5	0	2	1	0
Hate Crimes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Human Trafficking Labor/Sex	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	157	157	57	11	5	8	3
Kidnapping (custodial/non-custodial)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mass Violence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Vehicular Victimization (hit & run etc.)	93	94	49	33	16	18	13
Robbery	0	2	8	20	28	22	3
Stalking/Harassment	256	256	354	355	372	355	3
Survivors of Homicide Victims	44	44	40	5	0	5	0
Teen Dating Victimization	18	18	0	0	0	0	0
Terrorism (domestic/international)	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Other (PO violations, criminal mischief etc.)	198	196	131	232	133	256	273
Total	2,123	2,104	1,946	2,443	2,381	1,956	2,050

Speaker Service and Community Policing

The Beatrice Police Department organized a Police Speaker's program in 2008 as part of our community awareness effort. The focus of the program is to help educate the public about various law enforcement related topics. The topics include personal safety, crime prevention and criminal activities, and range from 20 to 60 minutes in length. Sworn personnel along with the Victim Assistance Coordinator and Communications personnel prepare the presentations based on their area of expertise.

Beatrice Public Schools, various church groups, service clubs, businesses and other community groups and classes requesting the service. The most requested topics are: fraud, drug use in our community, K-9 presentations along with the SRO's speaking to classes in the schools. Officers also spent time informing people about the Police Department and Officer Duties. Numerous groups tour the Police Department including Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops.

- **Holiday Events**

Officers participated in the Downtown Night of the Great Pumpkin fun night and the Trick or Treat event, speaking to Children and family members at this event. Officers also participated in the United Ways carnival and the Downtown Lighted Parade during the Christmas Holiday. The Police Department hosted the public in a Community Connections Carnival event in Chautauqua Park where they were able to meet the public, host games and held an information gathering opportunity to assist with emergency response.

- **Lunch with a Cop**

Due to staffing levels in 2023, our Lunch with a Cop program was not utilized as much as we wanted. We were only able to have a few lunch dates. We are continuing to add other options to spend time with the kids including lunch parties at the schools. Let's hope 2024 treats us well and we can get back in full lunch date mode again.

Officer Kristine Mangers

- **Special Olympics**

The Beatrice Police Department and the Special Olympics Community had yet another successful year in our partnership. We were able to continue the BPD vs. Special Olympics basketball game in March and even though it was a tough feat, the Special Olympics athletes came out on top. Once again, we had a successful Law Enforcement Torch Run in May, which turned out to be a great send off for summer games!

Over the year, as one of the state council representatives for SO, we strive to bring awareness and inclusion to the athletes of Special Olympics. This awareness is not only in our community but state wide. Collectively, the entire state reached our 2023 revenue goal to help sustain all athletes and their programs across Nebraska. This was achieved by donations and participation in Law Enforcement Torch Run events.

On behalf of The Beatrice Police Department, we continue to give our gratitude to our community and their support for Special Olympic Athletes. We are excited to see all of you again in 2024 at our LETR events!

Officer Natasha Nesbitt

- **Free Ride Home Program**

The Beatrice Police Department has partnered with Yellow Cab and Gage County MAPS since 2019 allowing officers, bars and restaurants in Beatrice to give vouchers for a free ride home to impaired drivers. A total of 368 vouchers were given out in 2023.

- **Stuff the Cruiser**

"Stuff the Cruiser" our annual event that is held by that Beatrice Police department FOP Lodge 84 achieved notable success in our community outreach efforts. The success of the "Stuff the Cruiser" event is a testament to the incredible support we received from our community. This annual initiative aimed to provide support during the holiday season, resulting in assistance to 150 local families and delivering gifts to over 600 children. The event garnered a substantial \$5,400 in monetary donations, reflecting the community's generosity. With Walmart's contribution, we were able to provide more than 40 trees to families this year.

A crucial aspect of the success was the collaboration with our partners who played vital roles in identifying recipients and efficiently dividing the donations. Our key partners were: the YMCA, Walmart, Legion Riders, Healthy Weight and Your Child, Willow Center, Public Health Solutions, Beatrice Preschool, Casa, Blue Valley Community Action and Central Plains for Area Services. Their involvement significantly contributed to the event's effectiveness. We look forward to working together again next year. The utilization of social media and news media coverage contributed to the event's publicity. To help with donations, fliers were distributed to Walmart customers. In order to make it simple for individuals to donate money, we included a Venmo link on the flyer. The community support needs to be applauded as this event continues to grow and reach more children every year.

Officer Brittney Ruh

